In the light of this basic approach it has made various recommendations concerning the development of the telecom sector in India.

(c) Appropriate inputs from the Report will be kept in view while formulating the future telecom policies of the Department.

**Allocation of Gas to Power Stations**

*330.SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated gas to power stations in Delhi and Gujarat after the Anta Stage-II was conceived;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Anta Stage-II gas based thermal station of NTPC is likely to get gas allocations;

(d) whether the gas allocation for the existing Anta GTPS is adequate to operate it as base load station as per policy of Department of Power; and

(e) if not, the time by which the additional allocation of gas is likely to be made for stage-I and also for stage-II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The gas allocations for the Bawana projects of Delhi Vidyut Board and the Gandhar project of Gujarat Electricity Board and the Gandhar project of NTPC were made simultaneously with the allocation of gas for the Anta Stage II project of NTPC, which was given an allocation of 0.25 MMSCMD of gas.

(c) to (e) The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is not in a position to make further allocations immediately for Anta I or Anta II projects.

**Science and Technology Parks**

*331. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop "Science and Technology" Parks to promote applied research by pooling scientific talent in universities and technological institutes/ research laboratories; and

(b) If so, the details of the action plan drawn up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Department of Science and Technology has a scheme known as "Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP)". Under the scheme, the knowledge capital available in technical institutions/universities are made use of for developing entrepreneurs among S & T persons. The STEPs are jointly supported by the Department of Science and Technology, the all-India Financial Institutions, State Governments and the host institutions. STEPs provide infrastructural and technical support for innovation and entrepreneurship. Eleven STEPs have been established and the scheme is proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Train Accidents**

*332. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents which took place due to the collision of trains and buses at railway level crossings during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of people killed in these accidents;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into such cases;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the scheme formulated by the Government to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Information is as under :

| | 94-95 | 95-96 | 96-97 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of accidents | 6 | 10 | 12 |
| Number of persons killed | 1 | 31 | 100 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of 28 accidents, 7 were due to failure of railway staff and 21 due to the negligence of bus drivers.

(e) Some of the steps being taken to improve safety at level crossings are as under :

(1) Provision of road signs, speed breakers/rumble strips on approaches of level crossings to alert the road users for reducing the speed of their vehicles.

(2) Provision of whistle boards along the tracks on approaches to level crossings to remind the train driver about cautioning the road users by blowing the whistles.

(3) Level crossing gates having very high traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a

planned basis. In addition, telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.

(4) Surprise checks and night inspections are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.

(5) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

(6) Publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, radio, cinema slides, posters, newspaper advertisements and street plays etc. Involvement of village panchayats in the railways, public awareness programmes is also being done.

(7) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict control while issuing driving licenses, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles.

**Corruption Cases**

*333. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry in 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers involved in the above cases gradewise;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt; and

(e) whether the Ministry have any review of the functioning of powers of the Vigilance Section under their control and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During 1995-96, 26,651 number of cases pertaining to corruption, dishonesty and disproportionate assets were investigated by Vigilance Department of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) 356 gazetted officers were involved in the cases investigated. The gradewise break-up of officers involved is as under :

(i) Joint Secretary Level and above .....40

(ii) Junior Administrative Grade/ Selection Grade officers .....98

(iii) Senior Scale officers .....102

(iv) Junior Scale officers .....116

(c) A total of 9258 complaints were received during 1995-96 out of which 3467 were investigated, 4305 were filed as no verifiable details were available and 1432 sent to other Departments for action as no vigilance angle was involved. The balance 54 complaints were carried forward to next year as investigation could not be completed during 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir. Preventive checks and decoy checks are conducted against staff and officers of doubtful integrity.

(e) The functioning of the Vigilance Wing of the Railways is reviewed every month by the Board and every quarter by Central Vigilance Commission. There has been no recent review of the powers of Vigilance Wing.

**Central Assistance under A.R.W.S.P.**

*334. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the States to prepare a concrete action plan to merit Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) if so, the annual outlay approved for 1997-98, therefor;

(c) the total target set for covering habitations both under the ARWSP and Union Territories sector Minimum Needs Programme;

(d) the names of States that have drawn the action plan on water, so far; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and released under this plan, State-wise, particularly to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual allocation approved for 1997-98 under the ARWSP is Rs. 1126.90 crore.

(c) The total target 1997-98 is to provide safe drinking water facilities to 90454 habitations.

(d) All the States have prepared the Action Plan for providing safe drinking water facilities to Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations.

(e) The State-wise details of the total amount sanctioned and released for 1997-98 are given in the Statement.